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PRESENTED BY
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Dennip

THE
Secrets of Angling;

PRACTISED AND FAMILIARLY OPENED
IN THREE BOOKS.

BY

J. D., ESQUIRE.

EDITED BY "PISCATOR."

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I. — 2

EDINBURGH:

E. & G. GOLDSMID.

1885.

Fisher



Secrets of Angling.



M370960

THE
Secrets of Angling;

TEACHING
THE CHOICEST TOOLS, BAITS,
AND SEASONS,
FOR THE TAKING OF ANY FISH

IN
POND OR RIVER,
Practised and familiarly opened
in three Books,

BY
John Denny
J. Denny, Esquire,

~~~~~  
EDITED BY "PISCATOR."  
~~~~~

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

EDINBURGH:
E. & G. GOLDSMID.
1885.

Fishes



SH431
D4
1885



Introduction.



"THERE appears to be no poetical treatise on the gentle craft of earlier date than Dennys's "Secrets of Angling." Some think that these verses have never been surpassed by any other Angling poet. Beloe, in his "Anecdotes of Literature and Scarce Books," says:—"Perhaps there does not exist in the circle of English Literature a rarer book than this." It was first printed for Roger Jackson in 1613, under the title, "The Secrets of Angling: Teaching The Choicest Tools, Baits & Seasons, for the taking of any Fish in Pond or River: practised and familiarly opened in three Books. By J. D. Esquire." Whatever doubts may have existed about the name of the author are now removed by the discovery of the entry of the book in the Stationers' Register, wherein John Dennys is named as the author. But who this Dennys certainly was is still unsettled. There was a well-known Gloucestershire family of that name, and there was a member of that family by name John,

M370960

son of Hugh Dennys by Katherine Tyre : he died and was buried at Pucklechurch, in 1609. Roger Jackson, for whom the first edition of 1613 was printed, says, in his dedicatory letter, that the poem was sent to him to be printed after (and may it not be presumed shortly?) the death of the author. John Dennys, just mentioned as son of Hugh Dennys, is supposed to be the same person as John Dennys, the author of the "Secrets of Angling." "The Fisherman's Magazine," and "Notes and Queries,"* contain much that is interesting about the Dennys pedigree, and the editions of the "Secrets of Angling." There are four editions. Copies of the first edition are extremely rare, so rare indeed that Mr. Arber in his preface to the reprint† of it in the first volume of the "English Garner" (London, 1877), says only two copies of the first edition are known to exist; the one is in the Bodleian and the other

* Only nineteen numbers of the "Fisherman's Magazine," which consists of two volumes, were published: the first number appeared in April, 1864, the last in October, 1865. See especially Mr. Westwood's letters in the numbers of "Notes and Queries," 30th November, 1867, 28th December, 1867, 31st July, 1869 (this announces the discovery of the date of the third edition, viz. 1650), and 28th August 1869.

† In this "reprint" the spelling is modernised, and several alterations made in the original text.

was in the collection of the late Mr. Henry Huth who lent his copy to Mr. Arber for the purpose of his reprint. The date of the second edition is conjectured to be about 1620, and in this edition the work is described as being augmented with many approved experiments. The editor was William Lauson, whose comments appear in the form of notes to this edition. The poem is divided into three books, which treat very fully of everything appertaining to the sport: it is in the first book that "The Antiquity of Angling" is noticed, while some of the verses of the third are devoted to "the twelve virtues and qualities which ought to be in every Angler." Izaak Walton says there can be no doubt "but that Angling is an art, and an art worth your learning; the question is rather whether you be capable of learning it. For angling is somewhat like poetry, men are to be born so."—"Complete Angler," pt. i., cap. i.] Dennys was both poet and angler born; his verses are admired and bespeak a natural love of the art whose praises he so quaintly sings. The treatise on angling contained in "The Pleasures of Princes; or, Good Men's Recreations" (4to., London, 1614, and other editions), is said to have been rendered into prose from Dennys's "Secrets of Angling."

The qualications necessary for an angler, according to this curious old book, are very numerous. "A skilful Angler," it is said, "ought

to bee a generall scholler, and seene in all the Liberall Sciences; as a Grammarian" he ought "to know how either to Write or Discourse of his Art in true and fitting termes, either without affectation or rudenes. He should have sweetness of speech strength of arguments knowledge in the Sunne, Moone, and Starres Hee should bee a good knower of Countries. . . . Hee should have knowledge in proportions of all sorts, whether Circular, Square, or Diametricall. . . . He must also have the perfect Art of numbring. . . . Hee should not be unskillfull in Musick, that whensoever either melancholly, heaviness of his thought, or the perturbations of his own fancies stirreth up sadness in him hee may remove the same with some godly Hymne or Antheme, of which David gives him ample examples." Hope, brotherly love, patience, and humility should all find place in his heart. "Then he must be strong and valient, neither to be amazed with Stormes nor affrighted with Thunder;" and there are many other qualities mentioned in "The whole Art of Angling" as being also necessary to the fisherman."*

The notes I have added are from a variety of sources. First, William Lawson's, distinguished by the initials, W. L. Then descriptions of fish

* Lambert's "Angling Literature of England," pp. 43-50.

as given in Salter's well-known Angler's guide; hints and "wrinkles" from Ephemera, Francis, and most modern writers on the gentle art, and lastly a few observations due to my own personal experience. I have not quoted Walton; his book is, of course, a household word with every brother of the angle.

"PISCATOR."

EDINBURGH,
Oct. 12, 1885.





In due praise of this Praise-worthy
Skill and Works.

IN skills that all doe seeke, but few doe
finde,
Both gaine and game; (like Sunne and
Moone doe shine)
Then th' Art of Fishing thus is of that
kinde;
The Angler taketh both with Hooke and Line.
And as, with Lines, both these he takes; this
takes,
With many a Line, well made, both Eares and
Harts,
And, by this skill, the skill-lesse skill-full makes:
The Corpes whereof discected so he parts,
Vpon an humble Subiect neuer lay
More proude, yet plainer Lines, the plaine to
leade,
This playner Art with pleasure to suruay,
To purchase it, with profit, by that Deed:
Who thinke this skill's too low than, for the
high
This Angler reade, and they'll be tane thereby.*

IO. DAVIES.

* One might be reading a bit of Browning!

THE CONTENTS.

The first Booke containeth these 3 heads

1. **T**HE antiquitie of Angling, with the Art of Fishing, and of Fish in generall.
2. The lawfulnessse, pleasure, and profit thereof, with all Obiections, answered, against it.
3. To know the season, and times to provide the Tooles, and how to choose the best, and the manner how to make them fit to take each severall Fish.

The second Booke, containeth

1. **T**HE Anglers experience, how to use his Tooles and Baytes, to make profit by his game.
2. What Fish is not taken with Angle, and what is: and which is best for health.
3. In what Waters and Rivers to finde each Fish.

The thirde Booke containeth

1. **T**HE 12 vertues and qualities which ought to be in euery Angler.
 2. What weather, seasons, and times of the yeere is best and worst, and what houres of the day is best for sport.
 3. To knowe each Fishes haunt, and the times to take them.
- Also, an obscure secret, of an approued Bait, tending thereunto.*





THE
Secrets of **A**ngling.



The first Booke.

OF Angling, and the Art thereof I sing,
What kinde of Tooles it doth behoue
to haue,
And with what pleasing bayt a man
may bring

The Fish to bite within the watry waue.
A worke of thanks to such as in a thing
Of harmlesse pleasure, haue regard to saue
Their dearest soules from sinne; and may intend
Of pretious time, some part thereon to spend.

You Nymphs that in the Springs and Waters
 sweet,
 Your dwelling haue, of euery Hill and Dale,
 And oft amidst the Meadowes greene doe meet,
 To sport and play, and heare the Nightingale;
 And in the Riuers fresh doe wash your feet,
 While Progues sister* tels her wofull tale:
 Such ayde and power vnto my verses lend,
 As may suffice this little worke to end.

And thou sweet Boyd† that with thy watry sway,
 Dost wash the cliffes of Deington and of Weeke;
 And through their Rockes with crooked winding
 way,
 Thy mother Auon runnest soft to seeke:
 In whose fayre streames the speckled Trout doth
 play,
 The Roche, the Dace, the Gudgin and the Blecke,

* The swallow. According to Grecian fable, Progne was sister of Philomela, and wife of Tereus. Tereus having offered violence to Philomela, cut out her tongue that she might not expose him, and then told his wife that she was dead. The truth being discovered, Tereus would have slain both the sisters; but Philomela was changed into a nightingale and Progne into a swallow.

As Progne or as Philomela mourns. . .
 That finds the nest by cruel hands despoiled,
 So Bradamant laments her absent knight.
"Orlando Furioso," bk. xxiii.

† The name of a brook.

Teach me the skill with slender Line and
 Hooke
 To take each Fish of Riuer, Pond, and Brooke.

The time for prouiding the Angle Rods.

FIRST, when the Sunne beginneth to
 decline
 Southward his course, with his fayre
 Chariot bright,
 And passed hath of Heauen the middle .

Line,
 That makes of equall length both day and night;
 And left behind his backe the dreadfull signe,
 Of cruell Centaure,* slaine in drunken fight,
 When Beasts do mourne, and Birds forsake
 their song,
 Ahe euery Creature thinks the night too long.

And blustering *Boreas* with his chilling cold,
 Vnclothed hath the Trees of Sommers greene;
 And Woods and Groues are naked to behold,
 Of Leaues and Branches now dispoyled cleane:

* The Thessalonian Centaurs were half horses, half men. Being invited to a marriage feast, they became intoxicated and assaulted the women. The Lapithæ took the part of the women and drove the Centaurs out of the country.

B

So that their fruitfull stocks they doe vnfold,
And lay abroad their of-spring to be seene;
Where nature shewes her great increase of kinde
To such as seeke their tender shutes to finde.

Then goe into some great Arcadian wood,
Where store of ancient Hazels doe abound;
And seeke amongst their springs and tender brood,
Such shutes as are the straightest, long and round:
And of them all (store vp what you think good)
But fairest choose, the smoothest and most sound;
So that they doe not two yeares growth exceed,
In shape and beautie like the Belgicke Reed.

These prune and clense of euery leafe and spray,
Yet leaue the tender top remaining still: *
Then home with thee goe beare them safe away,
But perish not the Riue and vtter Pill; †
And on some euen boarded floore them lay
Where they may dry and season at their fill: ‡
And place vpon their crooked parts some
waight
To presse them downe, and keepe them plaine
and straight.

* Bathe them a little except the top, all in a furnace: they will be lighter and not top heavy; which is a great fault in a rod.—W. L.

† Rind and bark (peel).

‡ Tie them together at every bout, and they will keep one another straight.—W. L.

So shalt thou haue always in store the best,
And fittest Rods to serue thy turne aright;
For not the brittle Cane, nor all the rest,
I like so well, though it be long and light,
Since that the Fish are frighted with the least
Aspect of any glittering thing, or white:*

Nor doth it by one halfe so well incline,†
As both the plyant rod to saue the line.‡

* White or grey are likest the sky, and therefore of all colors offend the least.—W. L.

† Besides the fish discerns it, and is put away with the stiffness of the rod; whereas on the contrary the weak rod yields liberty to the fish without suspicion, to run away with the bait at his pleasure.—W. L.

‡ In bottom fishing the rod should not be less than 15 or 16 feet, and on the Lea, fishermen even use rods of 22 or 23 feet. They should be light, and white East India cane is the best material. In punt fishing 12 to 13 feet is the best size, and bamboo should be the wood employed. The Nottingham Anglers use a light and springy rod, more flexible than a punt rod, but less so than a fly rod. In spinning for Jack, the rod should be about 14 or 15 feet in length, and of solid wood, greenheart for preference. For Trout-fishing a single, or double-handed rod may be used. If the former, it should be twelve feet long, and not more than 13½ oz. in weight. It should be moderately pliable. If a double-rod is preferred, choose one 14½ feet long, the two lower joints being of bamboo, with a greenheart top. Many Anglers prefer Hickory rods, and perhaps for large fish they may be better up to the

To make the Line.

GOOD Hayre then get, so that it be
not blacke;
Neither of Mare nor Gelding let it
be;
Nor of the tyreling Iade that
beares the packe:
But of some lusty Horse or Courser free,
Whose bushie tayle vpon the ground doth tracke
Like blazing Comete that sometimes we see:
From out the mid'st thereof the longest take
At leysure best your Linkes and Lines to
make.

Then twist them finely, as you thinke most
meet,
By skill or practise easy to be found;

work, but they are somewhat heavier, and this tells in a long day's fishing. For Salmon, the rod should be from 16 to 17½ feet long, unless the Angler be exceptionally tall and strong, when he may use one of 20 or 21 feet. Greenheart and Hickory are the best woods, though Mr. Francis recommends Washaba, a new wood. The weight should be about 2½ lbs. for a rod of sixteen feet nine inches, and about 2 lbs. 13 oz. for a rod of nineteen and a half feet.

As doth Arachne* with her slender feet;†
 Draw forth her little thread along the ground,
 But not too hard or slacke, the meane is sweet,
 Least slacke they snarle, or hard they proue
 vnsound,
 And intermixt with siluer, silk or gold,‡
 The tender hayres, the better so to hold.

*Arachne was so skilful a needlewoman that she challenged Minerva to a trial of skill, and hanged herself because the goddess beat her. Minerva then changed her into a spider.

"Arachne's labours ne'er her hours divide,
 Her noble hands nor looms nor spindles guide."

Hoole's "Jerusalem delivered," bk. ii.

†Knit the hair you mean to put in, one link at the rod's end, and divide them as equally as you can; put your three lowest fingers betwixt, and twine the knot; and your link shall be equally twist. If you wet your hair, it will twine better. A nimble hand, a weak and light rod that may be easily guided with one hand, needs but four or five hairs at the most for the greatest river fish, though a Salmon or a Luce,* so you have leng h enough: and except the Luce and Salmon, these will suffice.—W. L.

‡Intermixing with silver origold is not good, because first, the thread and hair are not of equal reach. Secondly, the colours differing from the hairs or fly, affright the fish. Thirdly, they will not bend and twist with the hairs.—W. L.

*The full grown pike from the Latin *Lucius*, the wolf fish; hence Justice Shallow says:—"The Luce is the fresh fish, the salt fish is an old coat ("Merry Wives of Windsor, I. i."), meaning Lucy is a new name, the old one was Charlecote.

Then end to end, as falleth to their lot
 Let all your Linkes in order as they lie
 Be knit together, with that Fishers knot
 That will not slip or with the wet vntie :
 And at the lowest end forget it not
 To leaue a Bought or Compasse like an eye *
 The Linke that holds your Hooke to hang vpon,
 When you thinke good to take it off and on.

Which Linke must neither be so great nor strong,
 Nor like of colour as the others were ; †
 Scant halfe so big, so that it be as long :
 Of grayest Hue, and of the soundest Hayre,
 Least whiles it hangs the liquid waues among
 The sight thereof, the warie Fish should feare.
 And at one end a Loope or Compasse fine,
 To fasten to the other of your line. ‡

* An upper end also, to put it to and fro the rod.—
 W. L.

† The same colour, to wit, grey like the sky ; the
 like bigness and strength, is good for all the line, and
 every link thereof ! Weight is hurtful ; so unequal
 strength causeth the weakest to break.—W. L.

‡ For bottom fishing upright rings should be used.
 A fine gut foot line is better than a single horse hair,
 but the gut should be in its natural state, not drawn.
 Good gut is round, clear, hard, even, and almost
 colourless. Plain reels with a light check and 40 or
 50 yards of fine dressed silk line complete the bottom
 fisher's equipment. In Nottingham fishing upright

Corke.

THEN take a good Corke, so much as shall suffice,
 For every Line to make his swimmer fit ; *
 And where the midst and thickest parts doth rise,
 There burne a round small hole quite thorow it :

rings, a wooden reel with seventy or eighty yards of Derby twist on it, and 4 or 5 feet of very fine gut are used. For spinning, stout upright rings and a plain winch with a moderate check, and 60 or 70 yards of medium sized dressed eight-plait line will be required. For trout fishing, a running line of hair and silk is preferable, and should be carefully tapered and be about 40 yards in length and in size be suited to the rod, neither too heavy nor too light. A plain check winch, not too wide between the plates, is far preferable to a multiplier. The casting line should vary with the weather : in shallow and clear water it should not be less than three yards. For salmon, tapered eight-plait dressed silk lines should be used and should never be less than 120 yards in length. The reel should be a common check winch, and the casting line should consist of three lengths of treble twisted gut, followed by two of good double gut, and then a single gut, in all about four yards in length.

*I utterly dislike your southern Corks. First, for they afright the fish in the bite and sight ; and because they follow not so kindly the nimble rod and hand. Secondly, they breed weight to the line ; which puts it in danger, hinders the nimble jerk of the rod, and loads the arm. A good eye and hand may easily discern the bite.—W. L.

And put therein a Quill of equall size,
 But take good heed the Corke you doe not slit.
 Then round or square with Razor pare it neare,
 Piramid-wise, or like a slender Pearce.

The smaller end doth serue to sinke more light,
 Into the water with the Plummets sway ;
 The greater swimms aloft and stands vp-right,
 To keepe the Line and Bayt at euen stay,
 That when the Fish begins to nib and byte,
 The mouing of the float doth them bewray : *

These may you place vpon your Lines at will,
 And stoppe them with a white and handsome
 Quill.

Hookes.

YOUR Hookes then buy the finest,
 and the best
 That may be had of such as vse to
 sell,*
 And from the greatest to the very
 least

* For heavy streams use Cork floats of various weights, and for light streams use porcupine quills. A large float should be used for live baiting.

* I use to make mine own hooks ; so that I shall have them of the best Spanish and Milan Needles of what size, bent and sharpness as I like and need. Soften your needles in a hot fire in a chafer. The instruments : First, an holdfast. Secondly, a

Of euery sort pike out and chuse them well,
 Such as in shape and making passe the rest,
 And doe for strength and soundnesse most excell:
 Then in a little Boxe of dryest wood
 From rust and canker keepe them faire and good.

That Hooke I loue that is in compasse round*
 Like to the print that Pegasus did make,
 With horned hoofe vpon Thessalian ground;
 From whence forthwith Pernassus spring out brake,
 That doth in pleasant Waters so abound:
 And of the Muses oft the thirst doth slake.†

hammer to flatten the place or the beard. Thirdly, a file to make the beard and sharpen the point. Fourthly, a bender, namely a pin bended, and put in the end of a stick an handful long.—When they are made, lap them in the end of a wire; heat them again, and temper them in oil or butter.—W. L.—(Dame Juliana Berners gives the process of hook-making in the greatest detail in her "Treatyse of Fysshynge.")

*The best form for ready striking and sure holding and strength, is a straight and somewhat long chank and straight nibbed; with a little compass: not round in any wise, for it neither strikes surely nor readily; but is weak, as having to great a compass. Some use to batter the upper end to hold the faster: But good thread or silk, well bound, may make it fast enough. It is botchery, hinders the biting, and sometimes cuts the line.—W. L.

†Pegasus was the winged horse on which Bellerophon rode against the Chimæra. When the Muses

Who on his fruitfull bankes doe sit and sing
That all the world of their swee[t] tunes doth
ring.

Or as Thaumantis, when she list to shroud
Her selfe against the parching sunny ray,
Vnder the mantle of some stormy cloud,
Where she her sundry colours doth display
Like Iunoes Bird, of her faire garments proud,
That Phoebus gaue her on her marriage day:
Shewes forth her goodly Circle farre and wide,
To mortall wights that wonder at her pride.

His shank should neither be too short nor long,
His point not ouersharpe, nor yet too dull: *
The substance good that may indure from wrong;
His Needle slender, yet both round and full,
Made of the right Iberian mettell strong,
That will not stretch nor breake at euery pull,
Wrought smooth and cleane withouten cracke
or knot †
And bearded like the wilde Arabian goat.

contended with the daughters of Pieros, Helicon rose
heavenward with delight; but Pegasus gave it a kick,
stopped its ascent, and brought out of the mountain
the soul inspiring waters of Hippocrene.

* He means the hook may be too weak at the point.
It cannot be too sharp if the metal be good steel.—
W. L.

† Hooks are of various forms. There is the
Limerick bend, the Carlisle or round bend, the Sneck

Then let your Hooke be sure and strongly plaste
Vnto your lowest Linke with Silke or Hayre,
Which you may doe with often ouercaste,
So that you draw the Bouts together neare,
And with both ends make all the other fast,
That no bare place or rising knot appeare;
Then on that Linke hang Leads of euen waight
To raise your floate, and carry doune your baite.

Thus haue you Rod, Line, Float, and Hooke ;
The Rod to strike, when you shall thinke it fit,
The Line to lead the Fish with wary skill,
The Float and Quill to warne you of the bit ;
The Hooke to hold him by the chap or gill,
Hooke, Line, and Rod, all guided to your wit.
Yet there remains of Fishing tooles to tell,
Some other sorts that you must haue as well.

bend, and the Curved bend. I prefer the Limerick and Sneck, the former for Salmon and Trout fly fishing. When fishing for Trout with worm, I use the Sneck bend. For all other fishing, I prefer the Carlisle.



Other fishing Toolcs.

A LITTLE Boord, the lightest you can
finde,
But not so thin that it will breake
or bend;
Of Cypres sweet, or of some other
kinde,
That like a Trenchor shall it selfe extend:
Made smooth and plaine, your Lines thereon to
winde*
With Battlements at euery other end:
Like to the Bulwarke of some ancient Towne,
As well-wald Sylchester now razed downe.†

A Shooe to beare the crawling Wormes therein,
With hole aboue to hang it by your side,‡

* Or wind them on two or three of your fingers like an Orph-Arion's string.—W. L.

† Silchester, in Berkshire, is *Silicis Castrum* (Flint-camp), a Saxon-Latin form of the Roman *Calleva* or *Gallewa*. *Gallewa* is the Roman form of the British *Gwal-Vawr* (great wall), so called from its wall, the ruins of which are still striking. According to tradition, King Arthur was crowned here; and Ninnius asserts that the City was built by Constantius, Father of Constantine the Great.

‡ Worm pake of cloth, or boxes.—W. L.

A hollow Cane that must be light and thin,
Wherein the Bobb and Palmer shall abide,
Which must be stopped with an handsome pin,
Least out againe your baytes doe hap to slide.

A little Box that couered close shall lye,
To keepe therein the busie winged Flye.

Then must you haue a Plummet, formed round,
Like to the Pellet of a birding Bow: *
Wherewith you may the secret'st waters sound,
And set your floate thereafter high, or low,
Till you the depth thereof haue truely found:
And on the same a twisted thread bestow
At your owne will, to hang it on your hooke
And so to let it downe into the Brooke.

Of Lead likewise, yet must you haue a Ring,
Whose whole Diameter in length containes
Three Inches full, and fastened to a string
That must be long and sure, if need constraines,†

* A plummet you need not; for your line being well leaded and without a float, will try your depths. When the lead above your hook comes to the earth, the line will leave sinking.—W. L.

* That is good: but a forked rod, about two yards long is better. When your hook is fastened in the water, take your forked rod, and put the line in the fork, and so follow down to your hook. So letting your line be somewhat slack, move your line to and fro, especially downwards; and so shall your fork be loosed.—W. L.

Through whose round hole you shall your Angle
bring

And let it fall into the watry playne :

Vntill he come the weedes and stickes vnto,
From whence your hooke it serueth to vndo.*

Haue Tooles good store to serue your turne
withall,

Least that you happen some to lose or breake ;

As in great waters oft it doth befall,

When that the Hooke is nought or Line too
weake.

And waxed thread, or silk, so it be small

To set them on, that if you list to wreake

Your former losse, you may supply the place,
And not returne with sorrow and disgrace.†

Haue twist likewise, so that it be not white,‡

Your Rod to mend, or broken top to tye;

For all white colours doe the Fishes fright

And make them from the bayte away to flye ;

*The ring recommended in the poem is still the best method known of disengaging one's hook when caught.

†A most admirable piece of advice which should be taken to heart by all Anglers.

‡White and grey are good, answering to the colours of the sky.—W. L.

A File to mend your hookes,|| both small and light

A good sharpe knife, your girdle hanging by:

A Pouch with many part and purses thin
To carry all your Toolles and Trynkets in.

Yet must you haue a little Rip beside,
Of Willow twigs, the finest you can wish;
Which shall be made so handsome and so wide
As may containe good store of sundry Fish;
And yet with ease be hanged by your side
To bring them home the better to your dish.

A little Net that on a Pole shall stand,
The mighty Pike or heauy Carpe to Land.

**This seuerall Toolles, and what garment
is fittest.**

AND let your garments Russet be or
gray,
Of colour darke, and hardest to
discrye;
That with the Raine or weather
wil away,
And least offend the fearfull Fishes eye:

*A fine needle file is the kind to use, but they are to keene that a mere touch or two is all that is necessary.

For neither Skarlet nor rich cloth of ray,
Nor colours dipt in fresh Assyrian dye,
Nor tender silkes of Purple, Paule, or golde,
Will serue so well to keep off wet or colde.*

In this aray the Angler good shall goe.
Vnto the Brooke, to finde his wished game;
Like olde Menalcus wandering to and fro,
Vntill he chance to light vpon the same,

*“With regard to dress, some people are inclined to ridicule the idea of there being any necessity for attending to it at all. I am very sure, however, that excellent grounds exist for not being too conspicuous in this respect. The trout is a very gentlemanly fish, and does not like ‘loud dressing;’ positive black and white, too, or anything which glitters or is unusual, should be carefully eschewed, particularly on the upper and more conspicuous part of the person. A tall black hat, or one of the genus called ‘shiner,’ I do not recommend; and though I would rather fish in the Bishop of Winchester’s stream than in his lordship’s company when in full canonicals, I should equally consider Mr. Chadband in his cerements an objectionable party for successful trouting on a shy or well-fished stream; while a stage coachman in a white top-coat and shiny hat would be fully as unacceptable. Brilliant paste buckles on the shoes I have no objection to if anyone likes them, but on the hat, no. I even dislike a highly-varnished rod. Who has not seen the flash of a rod waving in the air while half a mile distant? and surely so unusual and startling a phenomenon cannot but be calculated to disturb the equanimity of so sharp-eyed a creature as the trout.”—Francis, “On Angling,” pp. 179-80.

And there his art and cunning shall bestow,
 For every Fish his Bayte so well to frame
 That long ere Phoebus set in Westerne fome
 He shall return well loaden to his home.

Objection.

SOME youthfull Gallant here perhaps will
 say,
 This is no pastime for a gentleman.
 It were more fit at cardes and dice to
 play,
 To vse both fence and dauncing now and than,
 Or walke the streetes in nice and strange Aray,
 Or with coy phrases court his Mistris fan,
 A poore delight with toylle and painfull watch,
 With losse of time a silly Fish to catch.

What pleasure can it be to walk about,
 The fields and meads and pinching cold?
 And stand all day to catch a silly Trout,
 That is not worth a teaster to be sold,
 And peradventure sometimes goe without,
 Besides the toles and troubles manifold,
 And to be washt with many a showre of rayne
 Before he can returne from thence againe?

More ease it were, and more delight I trow,
 In some sweet house to passe the time away

C

I count it better pleasure to behold
The goodly compasse of the loftie skye,
And in the midst thereof like burning gold
The flaming chariot of the worlds great eye;
The watry cloudes that in the ayre vprold
With sundry kindes of painted collours flie:
And fayre Aurora lifting vp her head,
And blushing rise from old Thitonus bed.

The hills and Mountains raised from the Plaines,
The plaines extended leuell with the ground,
The ground deuided into sundry vaines,
The vaines inclos'd with running riuers round,
With headlong course into the sea profounde:
The surging sea beneath the valleys low,
The valleys sweet, and lakes that louely flowe.

The lofty woods the forrests wide and long,
Adornd with leaues and branches fresh and greene
In whose coole bow'rs the birds with chaunting
song,
Doe welcome with their quire the Summers
Queene,
The meadowes faire where Flora's gifts among,
Are intermixt the verdant grasse betweene,
The siluer skaled fish that softlie swimme,
Within the brookes and christall watry brimme.

All these and many more of his creation,
That made the heauens the Anglers oft doth see,

And takes therein no little delectation,
To thinke how strange and wonderfull they be,
Framing thereof an inward contemplation,
To set his thoughts from other fancies free,
And whiles he lookes on these with ioyfull eye,
His minde is wrapt about the starry skye.

The Author of Angling.

BVT how this Art of Angling did beginne,
And who the vse thereof and practise
found,
How many times and ages since have
bin,

Wherein the sunne hath dayly compast round
The circle that the signes twice sixe are in:
And yeelded yearely comfort to the ground,
It were too hard for me to bring about,
Since Ouid wrote not all story out.

Yet to content the willing Readers eare,
I will not spare the sad report to tell,
When good Deucalion and his Pirrha deere,
Were onely left vpon the earth to dwell
Of all the rest that ouerwhelmed were
With that great floud, that in their dayes befell,
Wherein the compasse of the world so round
Both man and beast with waters deepe were
dround.

Wherefore to proue if it were false or true,
The scattered stones behind their backs they
threw.

Forthwith the stones (a wondrous thing to heare,)
Began to moue as they had life conceiu'd.
And waxed greater then at first they were;
And more and more the shape of man receiu'd
Till euery part most plainly did appeare,
That neither eye nor sence could be deceiu'd:
They heard, they spake, they went and walked
too,
As other liuing men are wont to doe.

Thus was the earth replenished a new,
With people strange, sprung vp with little paine,
Of whose increase the progenie that grew,
Did soone supply the empty world againe;
But now a great care there did insue,
How such a mightie number to maintaine,
Since foode there was not any to be found,
For that great flood had all destroyed and
drownd.

Then did Deucalion first the Art inuent
Of Angling, and his people taught the same;
And to the Woods and groues with them hee went
Fit tooles to finde for this most needfull game;

There from the trees the longest ryndes they rent,
Wherewith strong Lines they roughly twist and
frame,
And of each crooke of hardest Bush and Brake,
They made them Hookes the hungry Fish to
take.

And to intice them to the eager bit,
Dead frogs and flies of sundry sorts he tooke;
And snayles and wormes such as he found most
fit
Wherein to hide the close and deadly hooke:
And thus with practice and inuention wit,
He found the meanes in euery lake and brooke
Such store of Fish to take with little paine,
As did long time this people new sustaine.

In this rude sort began this simple Art,
And so remain'd in that first age of old,
When Saturne did Amaltheas horne impart
Vnto the world, that then was all of Gold;
The Fish as yet had felt but little smart,
And were to bite more eager, apt and bold:
And plentie still supplide the place againe
Of woefull want, whereof we now complaine.

But when in time the feare and dread of man
Fell more and more on euery liuing thing,

F

And all the creatures of the world began
To stand in awe of this vsurping King,
Whose tyranny so farre extended than
That Earth and Seas it did in thraldome bring;
It was a worke of greater paine and skill,
The wary Fish in lake or Brooke to kill.

So worse and worse two ages more did passe,
Yet still the Art more perfect daily grew,
For then the slender Rod inuented was,
Of finer sort than former ages knew,
And Hookes were made of siluer and of brasse,
And Lines of Hempe and Flaxe were framed
new,
And sundry baites experience found out more,
Then elder times did know or try before.

But at the last the Iron age drew neere,
Of all the rest the hardest, and most scant,
Then Lines were made of Silke and subtile hayre,
And Rods of lightest Cane and Hazell plant,
And Hookes of hardest steel inuented were,
That neither skill nor workmanship did want,
And so this Art did in the end attaine
Vnto that state where now it doth remaine.

But here my weary Muse a while must rest,
That is not vsed to so long a way;

And breath, or pause a little at the least
At this Lands end, vntill another day,
And then againe, if so she thinke it best;
Our taken-taske afresh, wee will assay,
And forward goe as wee did intend
Till that wee come vnto our iourneys end.

THE END OF THE FIRST BOOKE.



Dennygo

THE
Secrets of Angling;

**PRACTISED AND FAMILIARLY OPENED
IN THREE BOOKS.**

BY

J. D., ESQUIRE.

EDITED BY "PISCATOR."

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

EDINBURGH:

E. & G. GOLDSMID.

1885.





Secrets of Angling.



Angling

THE
Secrets of Angling;

TEACHING
THE CHOICEST TOOLS, BAITS,
AND SEASONS,
FOR THE TAKING OF ANY FISH
IN
POND OR RIVER,
Practised and familiarly opened
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THE
Secrets of Angling.



The second Booke.



BEFORE, I taught what kind of Tooles
were fit
For him to have that would an Angler
be ;
And how he should with practise and
with wit
Provide himself thereof in best degree :
Now doth remaine to shew how to the bit
The Fishes may be brought, that earst were free,
And with what pleasing baits intis'd they are,
To swallow downe the hidden Hooke vnware.

Baites.

IT were not meet to send a Huntsman out
Into the Woods, with Net, with Gin, or
Hay,
To trace the brakes and bushes all about,
The Stag, the Foxe, or Badger, to betray:
If hauing found his game, he stand in doubt
Which way to pitch, or where his snares to lay,
And with what traine he may entise withall
The fearefull beast into his trap to fall.

So, though the Angler haue good store of tooles,
And them with skill in finest sort can frame;
Yet when he comes to Riuers, Lakes, and Pooles,
If that he know not how to vse the same,
And with what baites to make the Fishes fooles,
He may goe home as wise as out he came,
And of his comming boast himselfe as well
As he that from his fathers Chariot fell.

Not that I take vpon me to impart
More than by others hath before beene told;
Or that the hidden secrets of this Art
I would unto the vulgar sort vnfolde,
Who peraduenture for my paines desart
Would count me worthy Balams horse to holde:
But onely to the willing learner show
So much thereof us may suffice to know.

But here, O Neptune, that with triple Mace
Dost rule the raging of the Ocean wide ;
I meddle not with thy deformed race
Of monsters huge, that in those waues abide :
With that great Whale, that by three whole dayes
space
The man of God did in his belly hide,
And cast him out vpon the Euxin shore,
As safe and sound as he had beene before.

Nor with that Orke that on Cephæan strand
Would haue deuour'd Andromeda the faire,
Whom Perseus slew with strong and valiant
hand,
Deliuering her from danger and despaire,
The Hurlepool huge that higher then the land,
Whole streames of water spouteth in the ayre,
The Porpois large that playing swims on hie,
Portending stormes or other tempests nie.

Nor that admirer of sweet Musicke's sound,
That on his backe Arion bore away ;
And brought to shore out of the Seas profound,
The Hippotame that like an horse doth neigh,
The Mors, that from the rockes inrolled round,
Within his teeth himselfe doth safe conuay :
The Tortoise couered with his target hard,
The Tuberone attended with his guard.

Nor with that Fish that beareth in his snout
A ragged sword, his foes to spoile and kill ;
Nor that fierce Thrasher, that doth fling about
His nimble flayle, and handles him at will :
The rauenous Sharke that with the sweepings
out
And filth of ships doth oft his belly fill.
The Albacore that followeth night and day
The flying Fish, and takes them for his prey.

The Crocodile that weepes when he doth wrong,
The Hollibut that hurts the appetite,
The Turbut broad, the Sceale, the Sturghion
strong,
The Cod and Cozze, that greedy are to bite,
The Haake the Haddocke, and Conger long,
The yeallow Ling, the Milwell faire and white,
The spreading Ray, the Thornback thin and
flat,
The boysterous Base, the hoggish Tunny fat.

These kindes of Fish that are so large of sise,
And many more that here I leave vntolde
Shall goe for me, and all the rest likewise
That are the stocke of Proteus watry folde :
For well I thinke my Hookes would not suffice,
Nor slender Lines, the least of these to holde.
I leaue them therefore to the surging seas,
In that huge depth to wander at their ease.

And speak of such as in the fresh are found,
 The little Roach, the Menise biting fast,
 The slymie Tench, the slender Smelt and round,
 The Vmber sweet, the graueling good of taste,
 The wholesome Ruffe, the Barbill not so sound,
 The Pearch and Pike that all the rest doe waste,
 The Bream, the Carpe, the Chub, and Chau-
 ender,
 And many more that in fresh waters are.

Sit then Thalia on some pleasant banke,
 Among so many as faire Auon hath,
 And marke the Anglers how they march in ranke,
 Some out of Bristoll, some from healthfull Bath,
 How all the Riuers sides along they flanke,
 And through the meadows make their wonted
 path :
 See how their wit and cunning they apply,
 To catch the Fish that in the waters lye.

For the Goodgion.

LOE, in a little Boate where one doth
 stand,
 That to a Willow Bough the while is
 tide,
 And with a pole doth stirre and raise
 the sand ;
 Whereas the gentle streame doth softly slide,

Marke what a line he hath, well made and strong,
Of Bucephall, or Bayards, strongest hayre,
Twisted with greene or watched silke among,
Like hardest twine, that holds the intangled

Deare,

Not any force of Fish will doe it wrong,
In Tyne, or Trent, or Thame, he needes not
feare :

The knots of euery lincke are knit so sure,
That many a plucke and pull they may indure.

His corke is large, made handsome, smooth, and
fine,

The leads according, close, and fit thereto,
A good round hooke set on with silken twine,
That will not slip nor easily vndoe :

attitude of the bait challenges the carp's attention to this 'new thing in baits.' Mons. Carp then catches sight of the shot, and, lastly, in all probability, of the float above. All this is of course strange and unusual, and he proceeds to investigate the bait with all due care, nibbling and picking at it, like the female ghoul in the Arabian Nights, who ate rice with a bodkin; he cannot make up his mind to take it, and yet he cannot make up his mind to leave it, so he nibbles and nibbles, and at last you think he must have got the bait, and you strike. Now, it is not customary for baits to dash off in that frantic fashion; and therefore, while your bait dashes off one way, Master Carp dashes off the other.—Francis *On Angling*, pp. 77-8.

His bait great wormes that long in mosse haue bin,
Which by his side he beareth in a shooe.

Or paste wherewith he feedes him oft before,
That at the bottom lyes a foote or more.*

For the Chub and Trout.

SEE where another hldes himselfe as slye,
As did Acteon, or the fearefull Deere ;
Behinde a withy, and with watchfull eye
Attends the bit within the water cleere,
And on the top thereof doth moue his
flye,

With skilfull hand, as if he liuing were †
Loe how the Chub, the Roche the Dace and
Trout,
To catch thereat doe gaze and swimme about.

His Rod, or Cane, made darke for being seene,
The lesse to feare the warie Fish withall :
His Line well twisted is, and wrought so cleane.
That being strong, yet doth it shew but small,

* The baits for Carp are the same as for Gudgeon. Paste can also be used. Potatoe is not to be despised, but after all Carp are of no value except for sport, tasting remarkably like a sheep's fleece in a very dirty state. This with every apology to Dame Berners, who calls him a "deyntous fish."

† Diversely. For the trout is a ravening fish, and at that time of the day comes from his hole, if he come at all.—W. L.

■

So doth the Foxe the Lambe destroy we see,
 The Lyon fierce, the Beauer, Roe, or Gray,
 The Hauke, the foule, the greater wrong the
 lesse
 The lofty proud, the lowly poore oppresse.

For the Pike or Pearch.

NOW for to take this kinde of Fish
 with all,*
 It shalbe needfull to haue still in
 store,

Some liuing baites as Bleikes and
 Roches small,
 Goodgion or Loach, not taken long before,
 Or yealow Frogges that in the waters craule,
 But all aliue they must be evermore:
 For as for baites that dead and dull doe lye,
 They least esteeme and set but little by.

But take good heed your line be sure and strong,
 The knots well knit, and of the soundest hayre,
 Twisted with some well coloured silk among,
 And that you haue no neede your Rod to feare;
 For these great Fish will striue and struggle long,
 Rod, line, and all into the streame to beare.

* A young whelp, kitling, or such like, is good
 bait for the Luce.—W. L.

And that your hooke be not too small and
weake,
Least that it chance to stretch, or hap to
breake.

And as in Arden or the mountains hoare,
Of Appennine or craggy Alps among,
The mastifes fierce that hunt the bristled Boare,
Are harnessed with Curats light and strong,
So for these Fish your line a foote or more,
Must armed be with thinnest plate along,
Or slender wyre well fastned thereunto,
That will not slip or easily vndoe.

The other kinde that are vnlike to these
Doe liue by corne, or any other seede :
Some times by crummes of bread, of paste or
cheese,
Or grassehoppers that in greene meadowes breed,
With brood of waspes, of hornets, doares or bees,
Lip berries from the bryar bush or weede,
Bloud wormes, and snayles, or crauling lentiles
small,
And buzzing flies that on the waters fall.

All these are good and many others more,
To make fit baites to take these kinde of Fish,
So that some faire deepe place you feede before,
A day or two, with paille, with bole, or dish ;



The Third Booke.



NOW fals it out in order to declare,
What time is best to Angle in
aright;
And when the chiefe and fittest
seasons are

Wherein the fish are most dispos'd to bite,
What winde doth make, and which againe doth
marre

The Anglers sport, wherein he takes delight,
And how he may with pleasure best aspire,
Vnto the wished end of his desire.

For there are times in which they will not bite,
But doe forbear and from their food refraine,
And dayes there are wherein they more delight
To labour for the same and bite amaine;
So, he that can those seasons finde aright
Shall not repent his trauell spent in vaine,
To walke a mile or two amidst the fields,
Reaping the fruit this harmlesse pleasure yeelds.

And as a ship in safe and quiet roade,
 Vnder some hill or harbour doth abide,
 With all her freight, her tackling and her load,
 Attending still the winde and wished tide,
 Which when it serues, no longer makes aboard
 But forth into the watry deepe doth slide,
 And through the waucs deuides her fairest way
 Vnto the place where she intends to stay.

So must the Angler be provided still,
 Of diuers tooles, and sundry baytes in store ;
 And all things else pertaining to his skill,
 Which he shall get and lay vp long before,
 Then when the weather frameth to his will,
 Hee may be well appointed euermore,
 To take fit time when it is offered euer,
 For time in one estate abideth neuer.

The qualities of an Angler.

NOW, ere I farther goe, it shall behoue
 To shew what gifts and qualities of
 minde
 Belongs to him that doth this pas-
 time loue ;

And what the vertues are of euery kinde
 Without the which it were in vaine to proue,
 Or to expect the pleasure he should finde,
 No more then he that hauing store of meate
 Hath lost all lust and appetite to eate.

C



Or when land flouds through long and sudden
 raine,
Discending from the hills and higher ground,
The sand and mud the christall streames doe
 staine,
And make them rise aboue their wonted bound,
To ouer flow the fields and neighbour plaine,
The fruitfull soyle, and meadowes faire are
 drownd
The husbandman doth luse his grasse and hay,
The bankes their trees, and bridges borne away.

So when the leaues begin to fall apace,
And bough and braunch are naked to be seene,
While nature doth her former worke deface,
Vnclothing bush, and trees, of summers greene,
Whose scattered spoiles lye thicke in euery place,
As sands on shore or starres the poles betweene,
And top and bottome of the riuers fill,
To Angle then I also thinke it ill.*

* Most of us are aware of the old rhyme :—

When the wind blows from the west,
It blows the hook to the fish's nest;
When the wind blows from the south,
It blows the hook to the fish's mouth,
When from the north and east it blows,
Seldom the angler fishing goes.

My dear friends and pupils, don't believe it : if you
possess a copy of this bit of ancient doggerel, let it be

All windes are hurtfull if too hard they blow,
The worst of all is that out of the East,
Whose nature makes the Fish to biting slow,
And lets the pastime most of all the rest,

anything but a rule for your conduct. You may have sport in all winds and in all weathers, or you may not; as long as the wind is not too heavy and is *up-stream*, be sure that you have the best wind that can blow for fly-fishing, though it is less favourable for the float. I have had some of the best days I ever had in my life with a north or east wind, and some of the worst with a south or west one. Some will say, choose a cloudy day with a wind here or there, and some a rainy day with the wind nowhere; some say, never fish in thundery weather, whereas I have caught fish again and again, and known them caught, in all possible sorts of weather, even with the thunder cracking all round—nay, directly overhead. I do not believe there is any rule whatever that can be relied upon. I have had first-rate sport in a snow-storm ere now, and two years ago a friend and myself took eighty-four brace of trout averaging about three-quarters of a pound each, in three days, the weather being pleasantly varied by north easters, sleet, and hail storms. The influences which cause fish to feed, or the reverse, are as much a mystery to us as they were to our forefathers. Fishes' appetites are doubtless somewhat like our own—they feed best when they are hungry, and when they can do so with the least fear. Fish feed at some time in the twenty-four hours, and be sure if they are not rising it is because there are no flies to tempt them. They are not starving by way of amusement, rely upon it, but have 'metal more attractive' down below in the shape of

The best houres of the day to Angle.

FROM first appearing of the rising sunne,
Till nine of clocke low vnder water best
The fish will bite, and then from nine
to noone,
From noone to four they doe refraine
and rest,

From foure againe till Phoebus swift hath runne
His daily course and setteth in the West :

But at the flie they vse to bite,

All summer long from nine till it be night.

Now least the Angler leaue his Toolles behinde,
For lacke of heed or haste of his desire,
And so inforced with vnwilling minde
Must leaue his game and backe againe retire,
Such things to fetch as there he cannot finde
To serue his turne when neede shall most require,
Here shall he haue to helpe his memory,
A lesson short of euery wants supply.

Light Rod to strike, long line to reach with all,
Strong hooke to hold the fish he haps to hit,
Spare Lines and Hookes, what euer chance doe
fall,

Baites quicke and dead to bring them to the bit.
Fine Lead and Quils, with Corks both great and
small,
Knife, File and thred, and little Basket fit,

Plummets to sound the depth of clay and sand,
With Pole and net to bring them safe to land.

And now we are arrived at the last,
In wished harbour where we meane to rest ; *

* Under the heading of " Certain Observations forgotten," William Lauson adds :—

Chevan and Chub are one.

The	{	Shotrell,	1 year	} are one.
		Pickerel,	2 year	
		Pike,	3 year	
		Luce,	4 year	

The Summer—May, June and July—are fittest for Angling.

Fish are the fattest in July.

Fish commonly spawn at Michael's tide [29th September]. After spawning ; they be kipper, and out of season.

They thrust up little brooks to spawn. The Trout and Salmon will have lying on their backs.

All the summer time, great fish go downwards to deeps.

Bar netting and night hooking ; where you love Angling.

When you are angling at the ground : your line must be no longer than your rod.

He that is more greedy of fish than sport : let him have three or four angles fitted and baited : and laid in several pools. You shall sometimes have them all sped at once.

If you go forth in or immediately after a shower, and take the water in the first rising ; and fish in the stream at the ground with a red worm : you may

D

take perch: viz. with a float and either one or two hooks, or a paternoster with two or three, with a loose line and roving minnow, or by spinning.

With the float, the lowest hook (if two are used) should be two or three inches off the bottom, and the next one should hang between mid-water and the bottom. The best way of baiting the minnow is to pass the hook tenderly and carefully through the gristle of the upper lip; some choose the back fin, but a minnow so hooked neither lives so long nor moves so freely as when hooked by the lip. When a perch takes the float down, do not strike directly, as the tackle used for this fishing being usually fine, it is as well to make sure of him; for, in spite of anything that some sceptical anglers may say to the contrary, the scratching and losing of one or two perch does most indubitably very often—I won't say always, because there may be exceptions, but does very often—drive the shoal away. I have noticed it scores of times, and have heard many good and experienced anglers verify the fact. Therefore rather give him a little time, and even let him leave the bait, or cut it off, in preference to being too hasty and scratching him.

The paternoster is simply a gut line, a yard or four feet long, with hooks about a foot apart, and weighted at the end with a bullet or pear-shaped plummet. Some anglers use three hooks and some two, a necessity which is more often regulated by the depth of the water to be fished. But the lowest hook, unless the bottom is unusually foul, should be almost on the ground, as it is the habit of the minnows to strike up toward the surface in their efforts to escape, just as it is the habit of all fish when pursued by an enemy; fear causes them to seek the surface, and even to jump out of the water. Therefore if the

minnow be not kept down, it will be much above the head of such perch as are lying at the bottom ; and, if the water be at all coloured (as is best for perch-fishing), this will not only be a fault, but a great one ; whereas if the hook be kept close down to the lead, it will catch two or three fish against either of the other hook's one. The second hook should be fixed nine inches above, and must hang clear of the tie of the lower hook. This is the best form of paternoster made.

The localities in which to look for perch vary with the season. Early in the summer the angler will find them in the streams, as in gudgeon-swims, into which they come when the ground is raked or disturbed, and here they often take the angler's gudgeon worm ravenously ; indeed, perch occasionally take a worm almost as well, and in some cases even better, than they do the minnow. They are often taken on the ledger, and these are frequently the best fish too. Some time since I was fishing with a friend on the Thames ; we were dace-fishing, with the float line ; he had a paternoster out on his side of the boat for perch ; I had a ledger on my side for barbel ; I had at least a dozen bites, and caught two or three nice perch, while he never got a touch, with a choice minnow and a small gudgeon not four or five yards off, and the perch were feeding all round us. As the summer advances, the perch seek the deeper and stronger streams, the quiet eddies and deep holes near piles, lock-gates, piers of bridges, corners of weirs, and by heavy weed banks. At this time they are well fed and cautious, and will try the angler's skill to make a good dish of them. As the season advances, and the winter floods sweep down, they all draw into the great eddies, or still corners, particularly after a sharp frost, and here they will be found in great numbers ; and

shallow. Of the two, I prefer to fish deep, as the less distance a pike has to come after the bait the better, for pike will not always come to the top of the water after the bait, even if they see it; and when they do come, they will see the deception so much more easily that, if they are not tolerably hungry, they will often refuse the bait. This is especially the case with good fish. Many a time have I, when fishing rather high, seen a good ten or a dozen-pounder come up with a dash at the bait and after following it for a yard or two, turn tail and leave it, when, probably, had I been fishing deep, he would just have put his nose out of the weed and snapped my bait. But there is a great advantage in fishing high when the fish are hungry. You cover so much more ground—that is to say, the fish can see the bait so much farther off. Of course, if the fish are well on the feed, and are ranging for food, it will matter little whether the angler fishes high or low, as within any reasonable distance his bait will be seen laterally, and probably run at. Whether it be taken or no, however, of course depends on the opinion the fish forms of it on nearer inspection. One point the angler should bear in mind, viz. that he cannot (provided the bait turns round fairly, so as to display itself well and hide the hooks) spin too slowly: and if he *over-weights* his line, in order to keep it clear of the weeds at the bottom, he will be obliged to spin so quickly, or to draw the bait along so rapidly, that he will not give the pike a fair chance of biting. Too swift spinning is a great fault, and it is, indeed, too common a fault in these fast days. The angler likes to be always throwing. ‘Swish!’—out goes thirty or forty yards of line. ‘There’s a throw Smith; my boy!’ He likes to see his bait spin like a humming top. ‘Look at that, Smith, my boy! can you make a bait spin like that?’ Possibly Smith

cannot make a bait spin in that wonderful way, and cannot throw above twenty or thirty yards of line ; but somehow Smith, with a short line, runs more fish than our fast friend. It has been the popular myth that a bait travelling at railway pace, and spinning like one long line of silver, is the correct thing, because it imitates a fish in an agony of terror. This argument is sheer nonsense, as fish do not conduct themselves like dancing dervishes or ballet-masters, and perform pirouettes when in a fright. They run away and turn perhaps, from side to side, as the swimmer does, to gain increased power by concentrating every effort now to one point and then, as a relief, to the other. The long, slow wobble of a badly-spinning bait is much more like the *real* thing, no doubt, but it is necessary to make the bait turn somewhat rapidly in order that the pike may not have too much uninterrupted inspection of the eight or ten hooks that encumber one side of the lure, and in order to present the silver side, constantly changing and flashing in the light, to attract the attention of the fish, which a badly-spinning bait will not do ; and it is to be borne in mind, that unless the bait spins very well indeed when drawn rapidly through the water, it will, when drawn only moderately slowly (as is preferable), hardly spin at all ; therefore it is desirable that the bait should spin well.

The best kind of line for spinning, unless the angler be fishing with Nottingham tackle, or casting from the reel, is slack plaited silk dressed. In choosing the line, see that it be neither too fine nor too bulky. If it be too fine it will be constantly kinking in throwing, and it will not stand the requisite amount of wear and tear attendant on jack-fishing. If it be too bulky it does not go so freely through the rings ; and much shortens the cast, besides being too visible to the fish.

If very heavy baits be required and large fish be expected, a stouter line must of course be used. Select a line that is neither too dry nor too sticky as regards the dressing. If it be too dry the dressing on the line cracks in places, and the line becomes more like a land-measuring chain than a fishing-line; and if it be soft and sticky it is a perpetual nuisance in casting, causing endless kinking, and the dressing very soon wears off. It should be fifty or sixty yards long—not that so much will be often required in fishing, but when used well at one end it can be turned end for end with advantage, and answers all the purposes of a new line.

The rod used in spinning for jack should be from twelve to fourteen or fifteen feet in length, with sufficient of spring in it to cast a bait well and yet with good substance to stand the strain and plunges of heavy fish should weeds intervene. Some anglers prefer the rod made of cane; but if it be made of cane, the only kind that should be used for it is bamboo, the other canes having hardly sufficient substance in them. Other persons prefer it made of solid wood, and of all woods greenheart is the best, with a good splinter of the same for the top. That is the rod I prefer. But, whichever may be adopted, the rod should be ringed with good-sized stout upright rings, to allow the line to run through them with perfect freedom.



APPENDIX III

A SELECT LIST OF BOOKS RELATING TO ANGLING.

A.

Ancient Classics which allude to Angling.

1. The "Halieutica" of Oppian.
2. The "Mosella," an Idyll of Ausonius.
3. "De Animalium Natura," of Ælian.
4. Poetæ Latini Minores. (Several verses in Vol. I. Paris Edition 1824.)
5. Theocritus. (Idyll 21.)
6. The "Geoponika," Book 20, generally attributed to Constantine VII.
7. St. Ambrose, in his "Hexameron," Book V.

B.

Bibliographies of Angling Literature.

1. A Catalogue of Books on Angling, by Sir Henry Ellis, in Vol. II. of "The British Biographer," 1812.
2. Pickering's "Bibliotheca Piscatoria," 1835.
3. A List of Books on Fishing, added by Dr. Bethune to his Edition of "The Complete Angler," 1847.
4. A Bibliographical Catalogue of Books on Angling, by Russel Smith, 1856.
5. The New Bibliotheca Piscatoria, by Thomas Westwood, 1861.
6. Bibliotheca Ichthyologica et Piscatoria, by D. M. Bosgoed, Harlem, 1874.
7. Angling Literature in England, by Osmund Lambert, 1881.

C.

English Books on Angling.

1. "A Treatyse of Fysshynge with an Angle," by Juliana Berners, 1496.
2. "The Secrets of Angling," by J(ohn) D(ennys), 1613.
3. "Barker's Delight," by Thomas Barker, 1651.
4. "The Compleat Angler," by Isaac Walton, 1653.
5. "The Contemplative and Practical Angler," appended to Franck's "Northern Memoirs," 1694.
6. "Salmonia," by Sir Humphrey Davy, 1828.
7. "Maxims and Hints for an Angler," by Richard Penn, 1833.
8. "A Handbook of Angling," by Ephemera, 1833.
9. "Fly-Fisher's Entomology," by Ronalds, 1847.
10. Stewart's "Practical Angler," 1861.
11. Francis "On Angling," 1876.
12. "Fishing," by Cholmondeley-Pennell, 1885.
13. "The Angler and the Loop Rod," by D. Webster, 1885.*

* The list of books here given is only intended as a hint to the angler WHAT to READ: if he wishes to form a COMPLETE Angling Library, I refer him to the contents of Mr. Lambert's book, mentioned above, and the other Bibliographies of Angling Literature.

Finis.

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